

TO SUPPORT RELATIONS WITH OTHER CHURCHES

Promulgated on 7 April 2005

WHEREAS the inter-church process has its practical expression at the local level in the commitment of the Churches to one another.

AND WHEREAS the Church in Wales has entered into a covenant with other Churches to work and pray for union in Wales.

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to make provision for ecumenical worship throughout the Province.

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED as follows:-

1.

(1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (3) hereof, within and throughout the Church in Wales, a minister or lay person who is baptized and is a member in good standing of another Church holding the Trinitarian Faith and administering the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion may be invited by the incumbent of a parish to perform all or any of the following duties within that parish:

- (i) to lead Morning or Evening Prayer or other non-sacramental service;
- (ii) to read the Holy Scriptures at any service;
- (iii) to preach at any service;
- (iv) to read the Litany, to lead the intercessions at the Holy Communion and to lead prayers at other services;
- (v) to conduct a service of Holy Baptism;
- (vi) to assist at a service of Holy Matrimony, save for the solemnization of the marriage;
- (vii) to conduct a funeral service;
- (viii) to assist in the distribution of the elements at the Holy Communion;
- (ix) to preside at a service of the Holy Communion according to the form or forms of service authorised by the Commission of the Covenanted Churches;

Provided that:

- (a) the aforesaid minister or lay person is authorized to perform the same or a similar duty in his or her own Church;
- (b) in the case of sub-paragraphs (v), (vi) and (vii) above, the persons concerned have requested the incumbent to give the invitation;
- (c) in the case of sub-paragraph (ix) above, a celebration of the Holy Communion shall be presided over by one or more ordained ministers of the Word and Sacraments; and notice of the holding of such a service shall, so far as practicable, be given on the Sunday immediately preceding, with an indication of the denomination to which the minister or ministers who are to preside belong;

- (d) in the case of sub-paragraphs (i), (viii) and (ix) above, if such a duty is to be performed on a frequent basis, the approval of the diocesan bishop has been obtained.

(2) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (3) hereof, a member in good standing of the Religious Society of Friends or of the Salvation Army may be invited by the incumbent of a parish to perform within that parish any or all of the duties specified in sub-section (1) above, with the exception sub-paragraphs (v), (viii) and (ix) provided that:

- (a) in the case of a member of the Salvation Army, he or she is authorized to perform the same or a similar duty in the Salvation Army;
- (b) in the case of duties specified in sub-paragraphs (1)(vi) and (vii) above, the persons concerned have requested the incumbent to give the invitation;
- (c) in the case of paragraph (1)(iii) above, if the invitation is to preach at a service of Holy Communion or Holy Baptism, the diocesan bishop is satisfied that there are special circumstances on each such occasion which justify such an invitation being issued;
- (d) if such a duty is to be performed on a frequent basis, the approval of the diocesan bishop has been obtained.

(3) An invitation to perform any duty covered by sub-sections (1) or (2) above in connection with a service of ordination or confirmation may be given only by the diocesan bishop and only if the approval of the incumbent and the parochial church council has been obtained.

2.

A bishop who receives an invitation to take part in an ecumenical service or a service of another denomination may in the course of that service perform any duty assigned to him provided that:

- (a) the duty is, or is similar to, a duty which he is authorized to perform in the Church in Wales; and
- (b) he has, before accepting the invitation, consulted the incumbent of the parish in which the service is to take place and, in the case of an invitation to take part in a service in another diocese, received the approval of the bishop of that diocese; and
- (c) in the case of an invitation to take part in the ordination or consecration of a minister of another Church, or to take part in a service of confirmation, or to preside at the Holy Communion other than according to the form or forms of service authorised by the Commission of the Covenanted Churches, he has received the consent of the diocesan bishops of the Church in Wales.

3.

Notwithstanding any provision of any Canon, a cleric, licensed lay minister or other member of the Church in Wales who receives an invitation to take part in an ecumenical service or a service of another denomination may in the course of that service perform any duty assigned to him or her, provided that:

- (a) the duty is or is similar to a duty which he or she is authorized to perform in the Church in Wales; and
- (b) he or she has, before accepting the invitation, obtained the consent of the incumbent of the parish in which the service is to take place; and
- (c) in the case of an invitation to take part in the ordination or consecration of a minister of another Church, or to preside at the Holy Communion other than according to the form or forms of service authorised by the Commission of the Covenanted Churches, he or she has received the approval of the bishop of the diocese in which the service is to take place; and
- (d) in the case of an invitation to take part in any service on a frequent basis, he or she has received the approval of both the bishop of the diocese and of the incumbent and of the parochial church council of the parish in which the service is to take place.

4.

A bishop or priest who has accepted an invitation to take part in the ordination or consecration of a minister of another Church may not, by the laying on of hands or otherwise, do any act which is a sign of the conferring of holy orders, unless that Church is an episcopal Church with which the Church in Wales is in full communion.

5.

The incumbent of a parish may, with the approval of the parochial church council and the diocesan bishop, invite members of another Church or Churches to use a church building in the parish for worship in accordance with the forms of service and practice of that other Church (or Churches) on such occasions as may be specified in the approval given by the bishop.

6.

Approvals given by a diocesan bishop pursuant to this Canon shall be in writing and shall be in accordance with any directions made from time to time by the Bench of Bishops of the Church in Wales.

7.

In this Canon the expression “incumbent” includes:

- (i) in relation to a vacant parish (and where paragraph (b) below does not apply) the Area Dean, and
- (ii) in relation to a vacant parish the incumbency of which has been suspended, the Priest-in-Charge appointed by the diocesan bishop.

8.

This Canon may be cited as the Canon to Support Relations with other Churches 2005.